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VOL. 1 NO. 139 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

JAISTHA 25, 1398 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 9, 1991

ZILQAD 25, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00



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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda's sympathy for storm victims

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday expressed her sympathy for the series of violent monsoon storms and tidal surge that hit the Maldives since May 27 causing extensive damage to property and infrastructures in many islands, reports BSS.

16b Lira for cyclone victims

ROME, June 8: The government of Italy has decided to contribute another 16 billion Lira towards mid-term and long-term post-cyclone assistance to Bangladesh, reports BSS. This was announced in recent consortium meeting in Paris. The Italian government took the decision after further consideration. Thus the total emergency support of Italy to Bangladesh will be 21 billion Lira about 17 million US dollar.

Tk 9140 crore national budget in the offing

16 pc increase in revenue earnings to be targeted

By Moazzem Hossain

The national budget, to be presented by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman to the Jatiya Sangshad (Parliament) on June 12, will target aggregate revenue earnings of about Taka 9140 crore in 1991-92, according to the latest official indicators.

The projected amount will be at least Taka 1330 crore higher than the revised estimates of Taka 7806 crore as revenue receipts in 1990-91. This will represent a 16 per cent increase in total revenue earnings of the government in 1991-92 over the revised es-

timates in 1990-91.

A major part of this increase in revenue earnings will be projected on the basis of existing rates of taxes or duties, meaning the fiscal measures already in operation. But new fiscal measures including new taxes and duties will however not be less than 30 per cent of the projected aggregate revenue receipts in the coming financial year.

Available indications further suggest that the tax collections under National Board of Revenue (NBR) would be targeted at Taka 7204 crore for

1991-92 compared with Taka 6010 crore under the revised budget for 1990-91. NBR collections, mostly in forms of customs duty, sales tax, excise duty and income and other direct taxes normally account for about 94 per cent of overall tax receipts of the government.

Non-NBR taxes for 1991-92 are likely to be estimated at Taka 410 crore against Taka 371 crore under the revised budget for 1990-91. Such taxes or duties include taxes on vehicles, stamps (non-judicial), registration, and land development tax.

Non-tax revenues of the government in 1991-92 will be about Taka 1527 crore—about Taka 100 crore higher than the amount under the same head in the revised budget for 1990-91. Such revenues include Jamuna Bridge surcharge and levy, interest income, receipts from financial and non-financial public sector enterprises etc.

The budgetary projections about revenue receipts for 1991-92 are now under the final re-examination by two divisions of the Ministry of

Uncertainty not yet over, says Jamaat

The central working committee of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh said in Dhaka on Saturday that the country was gradually heading toward a deeper crisis because of the controversy on the constitutional issues, reports BSS.

The Jamaat central committee, with its Acting Amier Abbas Ali Khan in the chair, said the sudden address of the Acting President over Radio and Television on June 5 and the speech of the Prime Minister at a public meeting the next day shows that political uncertainty in the national life has not yet been overcome.

The working committee felt that no initiative has been taken as yet to resolve the constitutional crisis through discussions although this impasse could not be solved without united initiative. It further pointed out that democracy could not succeed in the country keeping alive sharp difference of opinions among the political parties on the principal political issue like the form of government.

The working committee of Jamaat is of the opinion that the democratic aspirations of the people could not be fulfilled by retaining the Constitution which had concentrated all powers into the hands of a single person. It, therefore, called upon the ruling party to bring constitutional amendment bill in the coming session of the Sangsad for the establishment of parliamentary system and facilitating the return of the Acting President to his former post.

BCL decides march to JS as tension in DU persists

By DU Correspondent

Tension among rival student groups in the Dhaka University persisted Saturday with outbursts of slogans and counter-slogans from time to time.

The slogan-chanting groups demanded implementation of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and the arrest of Dr Milon's killers.

Chhatra League (S-A) decided to hold a march on June 10.

DU Vice-Chancellor meets APSU leaders today

By DU Correspondent

Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University has convened a meeting of the leaders of now-defunct All Party Students Unity (APSU) today to discuss the prevailing campus situation.

BNP works on three options on form of government

Bill to amend Fourth Schedule likely for Shahabuddin's exit

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to move a bill to suitably amend the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution to validate all actions taken by the Acting President since his assumption of office on December 6 last year. The bill will also provide for return of Justice Shahabuddin to the Bench as Chief Justice.

The ruling party will bring a separate bill for amendment of the Constitution only after the party decides the form of government in its National Execu-

tive Committee meeting today and Parliamentary Party meeting on Monday.

BNP sources indicated that the party leaders were discussing three options about the form of government: a) presidential system, b) parliamentary form of government, and c) blending of both presidential and parliamentary forms of government.

The sources indicated that majority MPs belonging to BNP would favour parliamentary form of government. See Page 10 Col. 3

AL leaders urge BNP to support its bill

By Staff Correspondent

Central leaders of Awami League Saturday urged the ruling BNP to support the upcoming Constitution amendment bill to be placed by the AL for switchover to the parliamentary form of government.

The AL has already notified the parliament about the bill. They were addressing a discussion meeting organised by the party in observance of the historic June 7 at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

The AL leaders viewed that passage of the bill would pave the way for exit of the Acting

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, transfer of power and establishment of a sovereign parliament as pledged in the Joint Declaration by the three mainstream political alliances.

Chaired by AL Acting President and Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting was also addressed by, Abdul Mannan, Vice-President, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary, Amir Hossain Amu, Joint Secretary, Tofael Ahmed, Organising Secretary and other central

See Page 10 Col. 3

Anti-calamity measures in coastal areas Saudi Arabia keen on effective participation

Saudi Arabia desires meaningful and effective participation in Bangladesh efforts to find permanent anti-calamity measures including construction of multi-purpose buildings in coastal areas, reports UNB.

The Kingdom's intention was conveyed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia by the visiting 7-member high-powered Saudi delegation when it called on her at her Secretariat office Friday.

During the meeting, leader of the delegation Dr Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al-Turki said they were particularly interested in assisting the Bangladesh government in building multi-purpose buildings in the coastal belt and offshore islands in facing recurring natural calamities causing heavy loss of life and property.

The government has already planned construction of multi-purpose structures in the coastline of the Bay, which can be used as schools, hospitals and community centres in normal time.

Saudi Arabia has, meantime, pledged 106 million US dollar for assisting Bangladesh in rebuilding the damaged physical infrastructure in the cyclone-battered areas.

Dr Aziz, also Vice Chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development, was quoted as telling Begum Zia that his country would always stand beside Bangladesh people in time of "any crisis in future".

Referring to the appeal of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz to the Saudi people for helping Bangladesh after the April 29 devastating cyclone, he said Saudi Arabia thinks to help Bangladesh in time of crisis is its "moral obligation".

Even the Saudi children had contributed to Saudi relief

supplies by saving their tiffin money, he said.

Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Abdul Latif Abdullah Al-Maimanee and Secretary of the External Relations Division Enam Ahmed Chowdhury were also present at the meeting.

The Prime Minister thanked King Fahd, the people and the visiting delegation for their assistance and cooperation in the post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation programmes.

She gave an account of the devastation caused by the recent cyclonic storm coupled with tidal surge and the relief and rehabilitation programmes launched thereafter.

"It was the worst devastation entailed upon the century," Begum Zia told the Saudi delegates, adding the cyclone had wrought havoc on different economic fields and physical infrastructure.

Referring to Bangladesh's participation in protecting the holy places in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, Begum Zia said the people of Bangladesh would always stand by the Saudi people in time of need.

The Prime Minister told the delegation her government wanted to make Bangladesh self-reliant and sought cooperation and assistance from friendly and brotherly countries to achieve that goal.

Begum Zia said besides economic assistance, Saudi Arabia could participate in joint ventures and invest in selected areas in Bangladesh.

Calls on Saifur

BSS adds: The Saudi delegation also called on Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at his planning com-

See Page 10 Col. 6

Adamjee Mills closed: BDR, police deployed

By Staff Correspondent

The Adamjee Jute Mills was declared indefinitely closed from the early hours of Saturday. The Mills authorities said continued violence was the reason for declaring the closure.

Three workers were killed and over 200 injured in a violent clash between two rival groups at the Adamjee Mills premises Thursday.

A tense situation was prevailing in the mills area till late last night.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Workers belonging to different groups brought out processions and

See Page 10 Col. 6

3 Indian dacoits beaten to death

MEHERPUR, June 8: Three Indians were killed and another injured in mass beating when a gang intruded into a bordering village early this morning to commit dacoity, police said, reports UNB.

The border guards of the two countries traded about 15 rounds of gunfire following the pre-dawn incident at village Rudranagar in the Sadar upazila.

Villagers said about 20 Indian nationals with lethal weapons, backed by a section of the Border Security Force (BSF), allegedly intruded into the village for dacoity.

The villagers came out raising a hue and cry and chased and caught four of the alleged gang.

See Page 10 Col. 2

Chinese help in disaster management to be sought

Bangladesh and China are expected to sign two agreements on bilateral cooperation during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's forthcoming visit to Beijing, a senior official said in Dhaka on Saturday.

Begum Zia will pay a three-day official visit to China, beginning June 18, at the invitation of Prime Minister Li Peng. Bangladesh is likely to seek Chinese help in the field of disaster management, it was learnt.

Official level talks are expected to cover a proposal for setting up a 250-bed modern hospital in Dhaka and implementation of Rupganj North Water Conservancy Project. China has committed to assist the two projects.

The visit, a goodwill trip, will provide an opportunity to Bangladesh's new democratic government and the Chinese leadership to know each other. Foreign Secretary Abul Hasan told UNB that an agreement on expansion of trade is likely to be signed. Another accord is likely to be initiated on cooperation in science and technology.

Begum Zia, during the trip, will have talks with her Chinese counterpart covering bilateral ties, regional and international issues of common concern.

The eleventh Barter Protocol signed between Bangladesh and China in 1988 had set a

See Page 10 Col. 2

St Louis leaves for home

CHITTAGONG, June 8: The last ship of US Task Force, St Louis, left Bangladesh waters for her destination yesterday with men and equipment after completing humanitarian mission, reports BSS.

The mission Operation Sea Angel ended with the departure of St Louis. The Zonal Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator Mokammel Haq said that the Task Force ferried 4,000 metric tons of relief and rehabilitation materials by helicopter, amphibians and ships from May 15 to June 6 to remote affected areas of Sandwip, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Banskhal and Hatia.

The US Task Force came to Bangladesh on May 15 at the order of President George Bush to carry out humanitarian activities in the cyclone and tidal surge affected areas of Bangladesh.

NEC approves Tk 7,500 cr ADP

The National Economic Council at a meeting Saturday approved the annual development plan for 1991-92 fiscal year with an outlay of Tk 7,500 crore setting a target of 5.75 per cent increase in GDP, reports UNB.

The meeting also revised the current year's ADP at Tk 6121 crore, from the original Tk 3,668 crore showing an increase of Tk 453 crore.

Presided over by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, all members of the council of ministers, members of the Planning Commission and senior officials. It was held at the NEC auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman informed the meeting that next year's size of the plan envisaged a higher allocation of Tk 1,379 crore or 23 per cent over that of the current year's revised budget.

The Minister said the number of projects to be taken up reduced from the original plan but it was not disclosed.

The plan was scrutinised and prepared in a way that will help reduce the poverty.

Agriculture, rural development, water resources development account for 31 per cent of the total plan outlay which will benefit the rural people, Rahman added.

According to the World

Bank standard, about 80 per cent of the country's population live below the poverty line.

Saifur Rahman proposed allocation of Tk 577 crore for rehabilitation of cyclone affected people.

BSS adds: Necessary allocations have been made for primary and mass education, health and family planning, job-oriented projects in the rural areas for poverty alleviation and for extending the role of the women in improving the socio-economic condition of the country. The number of projects has been reduced instead of increasing so that limited resources may not be given to more and more projects, the Finance Minister said.



VEHICLES GALORE: Where they come from or where they go is no one's bother, but the regular jams they create at vital intersections in the city are everyone's headache.

—Star photo

Army to ensure fair polls in Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI, June 8: Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, speaking four days before a fresh round of polling following former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, appealed today for voting to take place freely and fairly, report agencies.

"It is the solemn duty of political parties to ensure that the polling is both free and fair," he said on television.

The army will take up positions tomorrow in Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu to ensure free and fair elections to the state assembly and Lok Sabha on June 15. This was stated by the Chief Secretary, T V Antony, in

Madras today.

"A country ceases to be a democracy where the will of the people is not reflected in the elections and where the sacred right to vote is deprived either by a dictator or by musclemen employed by unscrupulous politicians," Venkataraman said.

Venkataraman said he had been disturbed by reports of large-scale rigging and violence in the election.

"Complaints of booth-capturing, rigging, intimidation of voters in some constituencies and killing of some candidates have been received by the Election Commission and by me from the public, from contestants and political parties,"

he said.

He added that he was also aware of allegations that government officials charged with conducting the elections had connived with political parties to rig the polls. He said officials had betrayed the sacred trust given to them by the people.

About 40 per cent of the country voted in the first round of the general election on May 20 and further rounds are to be held on June 12 and 15. Voting was delayed after Gandhi's assassination on May 21.

Since almost every political party speaks against electoral malpractices, it should be easy

See Page 10 Col. 1

100 killed in Pakistan's second worst train mishap

KARACHI, June 8: A crowded, fast-moving express train crashed head-on into a parked freight train early Saturday, killing at least 100 sleeping passengers and injuring 225 others, railway officials said, reports agencies.

The injured, many of them in critical condition, were taken to local hospitals for treatment, said the officials.

They said the death toll was expected to rise as rescue workers slowly cut through the twisted metal wreckage in what was believed to be Pakistan's second worst train

accident.

The 18-car "Tez Gam" express considered the country's best and fastest train, was carrying about 800 passengers from Karachi to Lahore and then to the federal capital of Islamabad, officials said.

Investigators have not determined what caused the accident. Although they said they could not rule out sabotage, they suspected negligence by station employees.

The station master has been suspended pending an investigation and officials said authorities were searching for

station workers who fled after the accident.

The train, moving at a speed of about 60 kilometers (40 miles) an hour, slammed into the parked Lahore-bound freight train loading fertilizer at Ghokti station, about 535 kilometers (400 miles) north of Karachi in Sindh Province.

"Witnesses said it was like a bomb exploding. The whole place shook," said one railway official.

The officials said they did not know why railway workers allowed the express train, which daily carries hundreds

of people on the 21-hour, 1,200-kilometer (900-mile) journey, to move into the station.

Most of the passengers were asleep when the accident occurred at 1:10 am (210 GMT). The collision derailed, twisted and splintered a dozen of the metal train cars, officials said.

According to the state-run news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan, the engineer of the express train survived the crash and told authorities that he saw the freight train sitting in the track as he came around

a blind curve. He said he applied the emergency brake but could not stop the train.

Officials said at least eight express cars, with a maximum capacity of about 50 people, were knocked off the track while four freight cars derailed.

Officials said the crash jolted residents in surrounding villages who rushed to the station to help rescue workers from the Army Medical Corps and civil agencies.

By mid-morning Saturday, they had cleared one of the

two tracks, they said. Trains were diverted from at least three nearby towns to bring cranes, medical and relief supplies and to carry the wounded to hospitals, they said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who visited the crash site and was briefed by the army, ordered an investigation.

The government said it would pay 50,000 rupees (2,100 dollars) compensation to the families of the dead and 10,000 rupees (415 dollars) to the injured.